



NEW HAMPSHIRE DIVISION OF HISTORICAL RESOURCES

State of New Hampshire, Department of Cultural Resources
19 Pillsbury Street, P. O. Box 2043, Concord NH 03302-2043
Voice/ TTY RELAY ACCESS 1-800-735-2964
<http://www.state.nh.us/nhdhr>

603-271-3483
603-271-3558
FAX 603-271-3433
preservation@nhdhr.state.nh.us

Generalized Guidelines for Research and Reporting:

Scope of Work for Proposed Dam Removals Pertaining to Historical and Archaeological Resources

Historic preservation laws and objectives:

Historic preservation “Review & Compliance” is a consultation process to identify significant historic properties so that any harm to them from government-assisted actions can be avoided or minimized. It is intended to be a conflict-resolution and problem-solving system, which balances the public interest in historic preservation with the public benefit from a variety of governmental initiatives. With respect to the proposed removal of a number of dams along New Hampshire’s waterways, we must first assume that most if not all dams are historic (50 years-age criteria).

Historic properties that are significant in history, architecture, archaeology, engineering, and culture are recognized by both the state and the federal governments as resources to be preserved and interpreted for the benefit of **all** citizens. They are **non-renewable resources** important to our individual and collective identity, and they are worthy of protection, investigation, interpretation, and conservation.

This policy does not mean that all properties of sufficient age to be considered “historic” are significant resources, nor does it mean that all significant historic properties can or should be saved. Rather, it is a directive to prevent needless destruction of our tangible cultural heritage, so that historical resources can exist in harmony with government-aided social and economic changes.

Purposes and Steps of Process:

The purpose of the historic preservation review process as defined under state law RSA 227-C: 9 and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470), implemented by the Federal Advisory Council on Historic Preservation’s (ACHP) procedures, is to balance the public interest in historic preservation with the public benefit from a variety of governmental initiatives.

- Define area of impact through the project scope. Division of Historical Resources (DHR) should be involved in preliminary discussions.
- Locate and identify potential historical, architectural, and archaeological resources within the project impact area.
- Evaluate identified resources that might be impacted by the project using National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) criteria for eligibility.
- Assess the probable effects a project would have on historic properties eligible for or listed the National Register.
- Develop means to resolve adverse effects.

The services of both Architectural Historians and Archaeological Consultants (meeting the minimum federal standards 36CFR 61.5) are required to address preservation concerns and to proceed smoothly through the review process. A scope of work should be submitted to the DHR for review and would include:

Identification of Historical Resources

Archaeological Resources: Phase I (Reconnaissance-level)

A Phase I Archaeological Reconnaissance-level survey is typically divided into two sub-phases (Phase IA and IB). Phase IA is defined in the following.

Minimally a Phase IA would need to be completed by a qualified archaeologist and submitted to the DHR for review and approval. Information includes:

- General location of project identified on USGS quadrangle map (provided by appropriate agency).
- Methodology statement including purpose of dam project (provided by appropriate agency).
 - Include possible impacts to areas upstream and downstream from dam removal (possible change in hydrology- information provided by appropriate agency).
 - Potential impacts to known sites would include:
 - Erosion to sites from changes in hydrology.
 - Exposure of sites due to lower pond and river levels.
 - Vandalism to exposed sites.
 - Construction impacts resulting from demolition activities.
- Detailed project map with area of impact defined including (provided by appropriate agency):
 - Areas proposed for access, staging, and fill removal/disposal.
- Background Research to include:
 - DHR site file search for known archaeological resources, both Native American and Historical sites.
 - NHDHR Project Area Form and related research as prepared by consulting Architectural Historian.

- Visual assessment of the proposed project area with regard to archaeological resources.
 - Site description that includes identification of existing archaeological resources.
 - Photo-documentation.
- Detailed map that defines study area including known historic and archaeological resources in close proximity.
 - Cellar holes, retaining walls, etc.
 - Previously identified Native American and Euro American archaeological resources within a 1-mile radius of existing dam.
- NHDHR Archaeological Inventory Forms completed or updated at the Minimum Documentation Level.
- Bibliography of all sources utilized, including informants, DHR's files and the Department of Environmental Services' dam files.

Historic/Architectural/Engineering Resources: Phase I

Minimally a Project Area Form would need to be completed by a qualified architectural historian and submitted to the DHR for review and approval. Information includes:

- Background Research to include:
 - History and evolution of the dam and study area within the town it is located in, supplemented with historic maps.
 - Information describing comparable resources within the watershed.
- Visual assessment of the proposed project area.
 - Map dam related potential historic resources and sites, with photo key.
 - Photo-documentation.
- Description of the dam and any other historical resources present within the study area.
 - Standing structures, sites, or foundations related to dam and/or abutting the impoundment.
 - Bridges, abutments, etc. (within hydrology area of impact-primarily downstream, although upstream should be considered)
 - Mill ponds.
 - Describe possible effects on historic viewshed.
- Submit text, mapping and photographs on Project Area Form to lead federal agency and DHR for review and approval.
 - Area form will include a summary of previous inventory projects in the study area and recommendations for additional individual and district inventory, if needed.
 - If any resources are part of a larger historic district, this evaluation should extend outside of the impact area to define that district.

- Bibliography of all sources utilized, including informants. DHR's files and the NH Environmental Services' dam files.

Evaluation of Historic Resources: Phase IB or II

- Archaeological Resources (Phase IB Archaeological Reconnaissance-level survey):
 - Level of effort recommended by the DHR, generally includes subsurface testing.
- Historic/Architectural/Engineering Resources (Phase II):
 - Complete NHDHR Individual Inventory Forms or District Forms as determined by DHR.
 - Apply the criteria for evaluation of significance of a resource for possible eligibility for the NRHP, if not already listed or nominated.

Consultation Phase for Historic Phase:

Continued consultation with DHR is needed in areas that are determined sensitive to archaeological resources and for historic properties determined eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

- Determine effect of project on historical resources.
- Consult with the DHR and any identified consulting parties to avoid, minimize or mitigate adverse effects on historic properties.
- Conclude consultation with a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA), if needed.
- Include in MOA a clause for Post Dam Removal Monitoring.
 - Post Dam Removal Monitoring:
 - If there have been archaeological sites identified within the area of impact, the DHR recommends that a qualified archaeologist visually assess the sensitive areas associated with the dam for a year following removal (twice a year), depending on the change in hydrology. This will include potential effects to associated bridges.

Definitions:

Area of Potential Effects:

Determined as the geographic area or areas within which an undertaking may cause changes in the character or use of historic and archaeological properties, if any such properties exist.